

# Press Release

Unified Command  
Buzzard's Bay Oil Spill

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## **Buzzard's Bay oil spill response update**

**CAPE COD, Mass.**, - The Coast Guard, in cooperation with Bouchard Transportation and other federal, state and local agencies and contractors continues today to assess and clean up oil spilled from a barge being towed through Buzzard's Bay en route to Sandwich, Mass., from Philadelphia on Sunday.

The Unified Command plans to increase shoreline work crews by 30 percent today, bringing the total to 213. More than 18 miles of shoreline has been impacted by oil. Tar patties and tar balls are shifting and have caused re-oiling at Mattapoisett Harbor and Sconticut Neck. Teams are being sent to clear those areas. Current weather conditions are winds out of the southeast at 10-15 knots, and are affecting clean up operations. 2,000 gallons of oil and 110 cubic yards of solid waste have been collected, equal in volume to six tractor-trailers.

Five fast response teams from Clean Harbors have been formed. These teams move quickly in small watercraft to clean up newly reported impacted areas. Currently, these teams are responding to impacted areas along the east and west sides of Buzzard's Bay at Woods Hole, Bird and Ram islands, and Cuttyhunk Island.

On-water oil recovery operations will continue, as dictated by morning over flights. Clean Harbors, a contractor hired by Bouchard, is skimming oil from the surface of the water near Marion. Oil in other impacted areas has formed into tar patties and tar balls, and cannot be skimmed. Shoreline Clean up and Assessment Teams (SCATs) will continue to survey the progress made at impacted shorelines, and protective booming at 15 identified sites will be maintained and monitored.

Bird, Ram and Penikese islands have been identified as highly sensitive areas, and are being protected by snare boom. A wildlife rehabilitation facility is in place at New Bedford Wastewater Treatment Plant. Twenty-nine birds, including six plovers, are being rehabilitated, and 18 birds are dead. The public should not handle oiled or dead wildlife. To report impacted areas or wildlife, contact the Coalition for Buzzard's Bay at **508-999-6363**.

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Anyone with financial losses resulting from this spill should contact Bouchard's claims hotline at **800-995-4045**.

Questions regarding fisheries closings should be directed to the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries at **508-563-1779 ext. 114**.

Shoreline Clean up and Assessment Teams have also placed colored flags on impacted beaches and sensitive areas. Orange flags denote shoreline areas in need of cleanup. Yellow flags denote environmentally sensitive habitat areas. If people encounter these flags, they should not remove them.

Approximately 1,806,000 gallons have been offloaded so far from Bouchard barge B-120 docked at the Esco fuel terminal in Sandwich, Mass. The Coast Guard is monitoring the offloading of fuel at the rate of 193,200 gallons per hour, and the process is about 50 percent complete. Bouchard expects the barge to be underway for New York around 8 p.m. today, pending Coast Guard approval of a transport plan.

For information regarding clean up, media should contact the Joint Information Center at **(508) 968-6440, (508) 968-6650, (508) 968-6652, or (508) 968-6665**.

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